

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Opera, a theatrically-impressive combination of music and drama, has been a vital part of every civilized nation’s culture and is one of the fastest-growing art forms in the world today. In Shakespeare’s words, “To hear great music and to be moved by the concord of sweet sounds touches our souls and enriches our lives”; and

WHEREAS: Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point, set in the incomparably beautiful Ozark Mountains of Arkansas, is dedicated to nurturing and developing the creative talents of young singers, who are interested in pursuing opera as a career; and

WHEREAS: Music has always been a unifying force in our world, bringing people together across vast cultural and geographic distances; and

WHEREAS: Founded by Dr. Henry Hobart in 1950, and affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMCC), Opera in the Ozarks has earned an impressive reputation for its training program, encouraging the study, composition, performance, and appreciation of this classical art. All opera roles are performed entirely by the students, the significance of which is reflected in the program’s theme, “The Students Are the Stars”; and

WHEREAS: From July 13 through July 15, Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point is hosting a festival, “Arkansas, the Natural State...for Opera Weekend!”, promoting appreciation and support for the fine arts and for the contribution of opera to the cultural life of our State and our Nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim the weekend of July 13 – July 15, 2007, as

“ARKANSAS, THE NATURAL STATE ...FOR OPERA WEEKEND!”

across the State of Arkansas, and I encourage my fellow citizens to participate in and support this enriching festival that offers opportunities to the opera students and to the citizens and visitors of our State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this _____ day of June, in the year of our Lord 2007.

MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR

CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE